

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Hungary

REPORT NO.

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SUBJECT

Administration of Forests and Hunting

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REFERENCES

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.

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THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. All forests in Hungary were under the control of the Ministry of Farming and Forestry (Mező és Erdőgazdasági Minisztérium), Budapest [redacted] 7.25X1A Private possession of forest land was not allowed. Forests were directly managed in regions where forests existed by State Forestry Offices (Állami Erdő Gazdaságok) under this Ministry, which took care of reforestation, transportation, lumbering, and game hunting. In every State Forestry Office there was a forestry engineer (erdőmérnök) and a hunt master (vadászmeister). Workers in State Forestry Offices were government workers like the State Farm workers, but they were not as well paid as State Farm workers. They received a monthly salary of 600-700 forints, and 500-600 forints per month according to the work unit norm (munka egyseg, norma). Their identity document was the Forestry Labor Certificate (Erdőgazdasági Munka Igazolvány).
2. Because of the severe winter in 1951, wild swine and deer were driven down from the mountains to level land and cultivated fields in Borsod County and other mountainous regions, causing extensive damage to the crops. In order to reduce the damage from wild life and to get enough venison and wild boar meat for export, mostly to France, the local authorities encouraged hunters to go after the game.

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3. Only members of the Hungarian Workers' Party could obtain hunting licenses. To obtain one, the petitioner submitted an application to the State Hunting Administration (Országos Vadaszati Főfelügyelőség), which was a department of the Farming and Forestry Ministry. The petition included detailed biographical information written in the petitioner's own hand. If his request was approved, he received a Hunting License (Vadász Igazolvány) in a black booklet which contained his photograph, 9 x 6 in size. This could be used as an identity document together with the Residence Registration Certificate. Upon receipt of the Hunting License and on the basis of it, the petitioner had to apply for a Permit to Possess Arms (Fegyvertartási Engedély), which had no photograph and which was issued by the Ministry of the Interior through the State Security Office (Államvédelmi Hatóság -- AVH). The Ministry of the Interior also issued a Permit to Purchase Ammunition (Lőszervásárlási Engedély).
4. In the regions where a particular game occurred, a licensed hunter each year had to deliver the following quotas in kind: 25 kg. of hare; 30 kg. of wild swine; 40 kg. of venison; 10 kg. of wild fowl, for which the hunter got 15 forints per kilogram. This obligation was independent of the hunter's own catch. He might have to pay the market price out of his own pocket if his hunting was unsuccessful.

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